

altered states

1
SHOT

THE Shadow®



DYNAMITE

DAVID AVALLONE

IVAN RODRIGUEZ

TAN 14

altered states

"In Altered States, the familiar becomes the unfamiliar and the known becomes the unknown. Heroes from across the ages are transported from the worlds and identities they recognize, to strange and terrifying new worlds and identities."

written by
illustrated by
colored by
lettered by

cover art by
cover colors by

states™ THE SHADOW®

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Manhattan, 1935
Just before dawn...





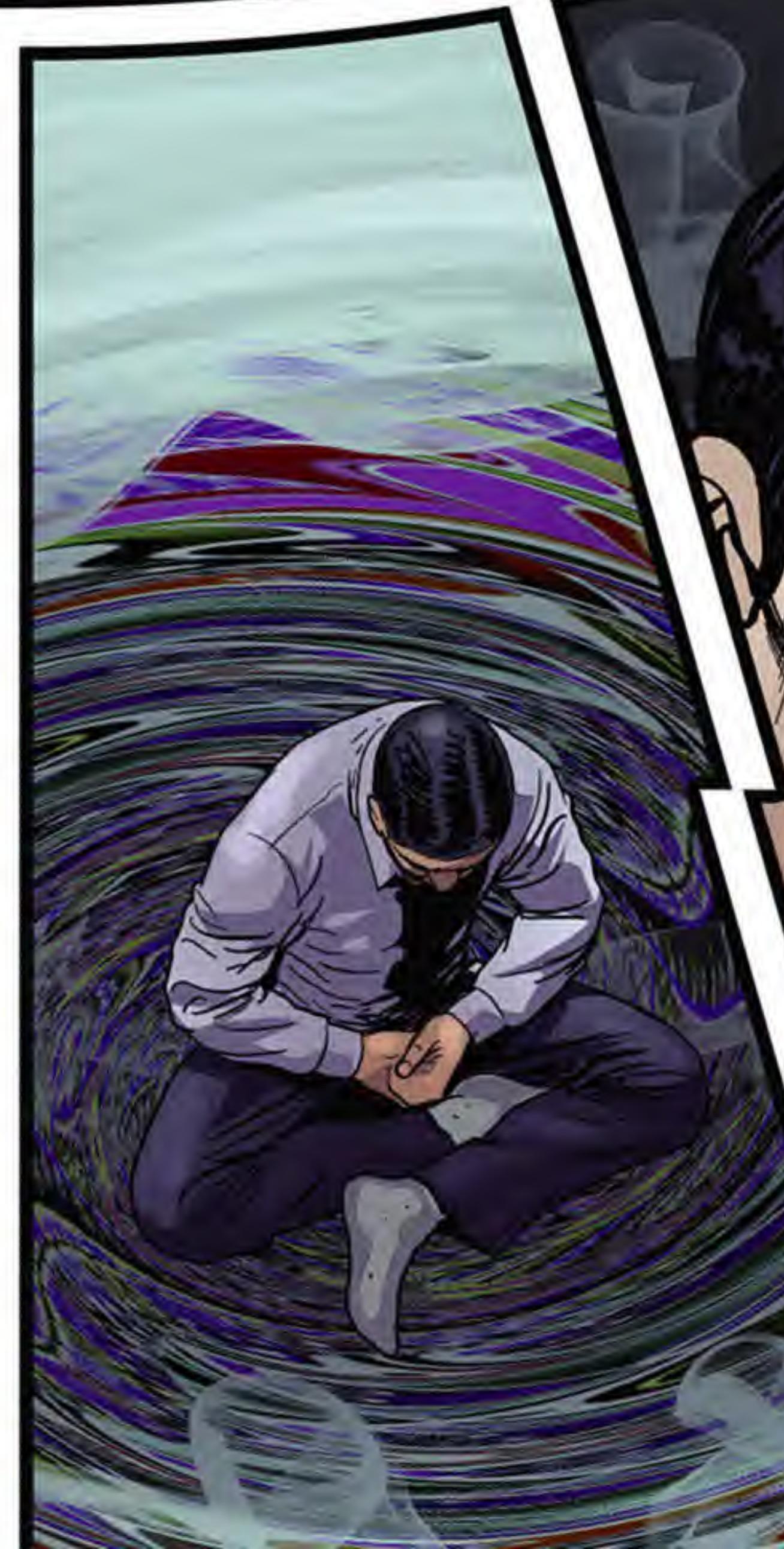
WEARINESS.

MY PREY ARE
TINY AND THEY
ARE WEAK, BUT
THEY ARE
ENDLESS.

HERE, IN MY
SANCTUM, I
REFOCUS MY
ENERGY...

...AND EVER
GROW IN
STRENGTH.

ALTERED STATES: THE SHADOW OUT OF TIME







FACE ME,
CHAMPION.

FACE
YOUR
DEATH.

BLAM
BLAM

FZZZT
FZZZT

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

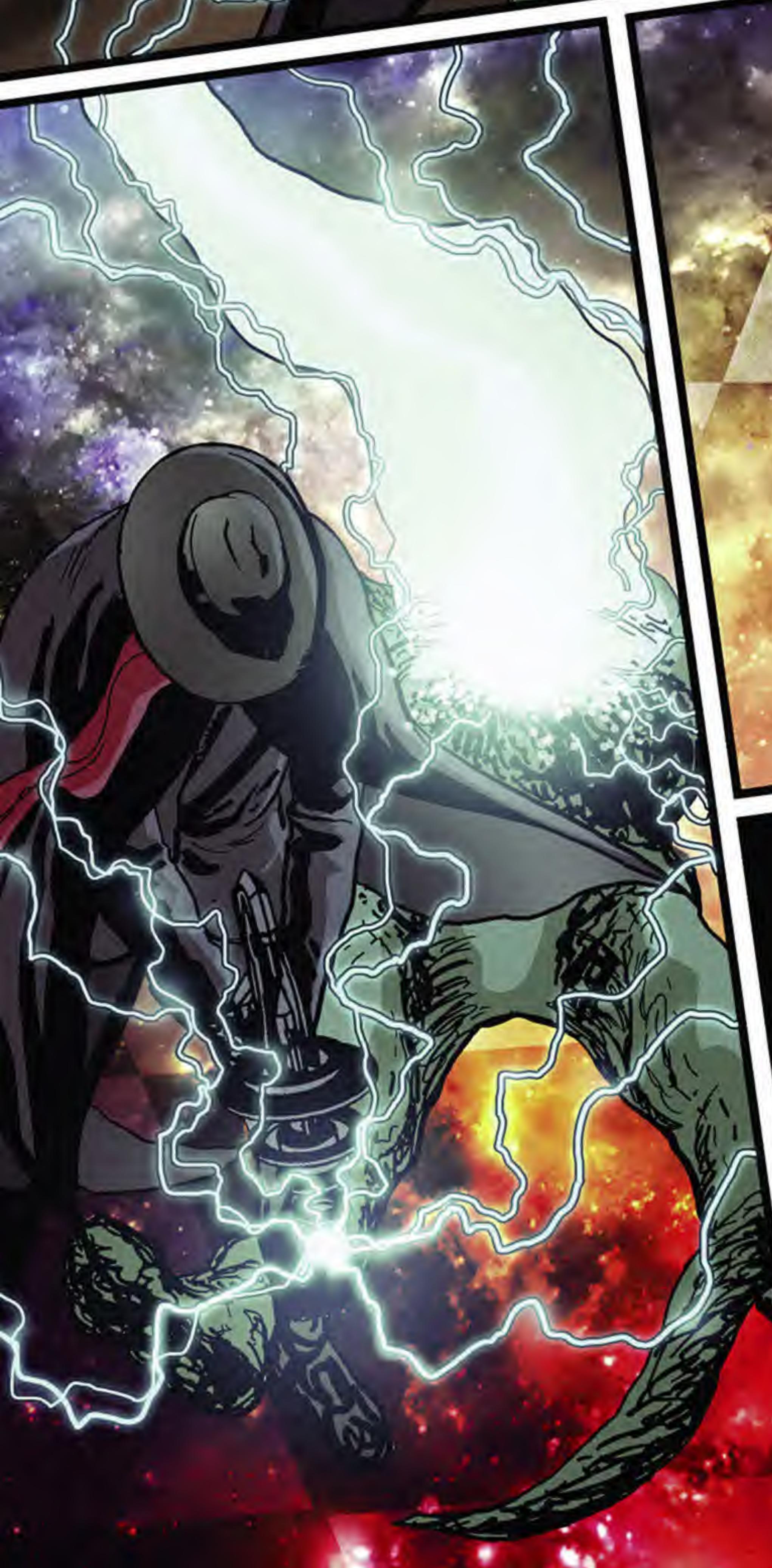
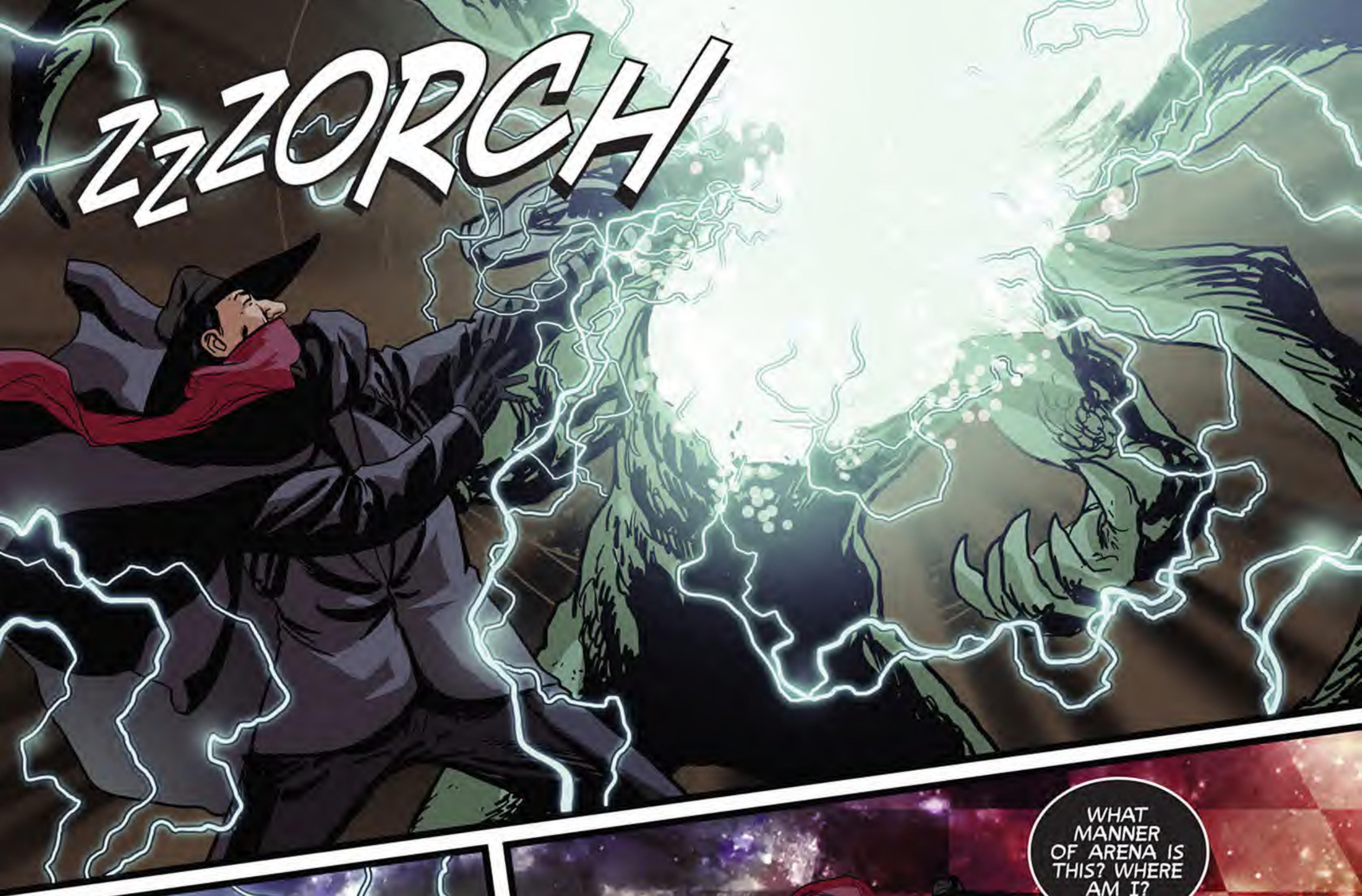
CRIK!
CRIK!

HHmmmmmmmm

FZZZARTCH



FZZARTICH FZZTICH



WE ARE EDEN.

THIS IS THE PLACE WE HAVE MADE.

THIS PLACE FEELS WRONG: THERE'S A DREAD NEWNESS BEYOND TENTACLED NIGHTMARES AND DEATH RAYS.

WHY HAVE I BEEN BROUGHT HERE?

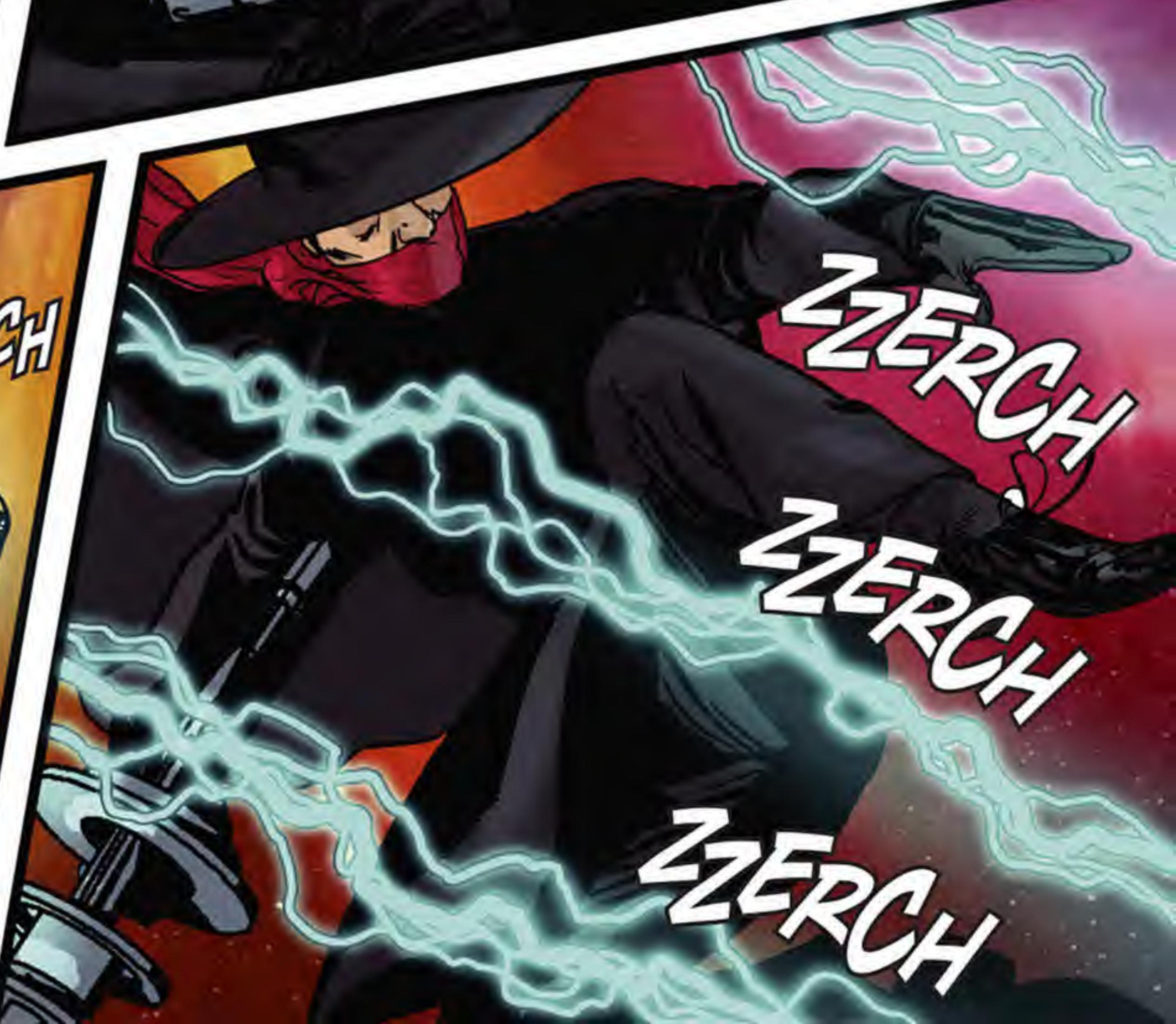
WE ARE EDEN. YOU ARE THE SUBJECT.

THE SUBJECT? YOU SEEK TO TEST THE SHADOW?

RETURN ME TO MY SANCTUM AT ONCE! I DO NOT SUBMIT TO YOUR TEST!

THE SUBJECT WILL SUBMIT OR DIE.

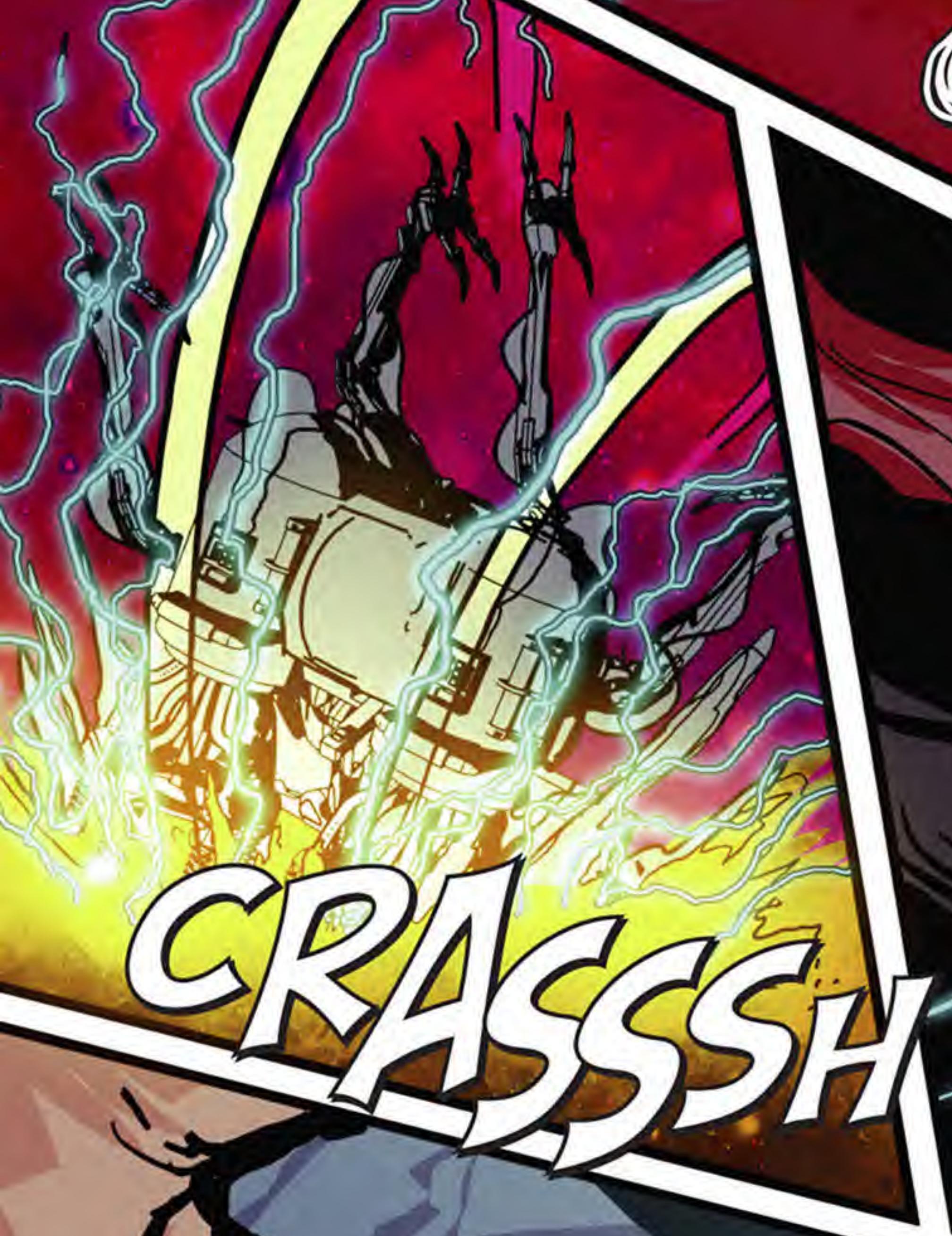
HMMMMMM



HHMMMMMM

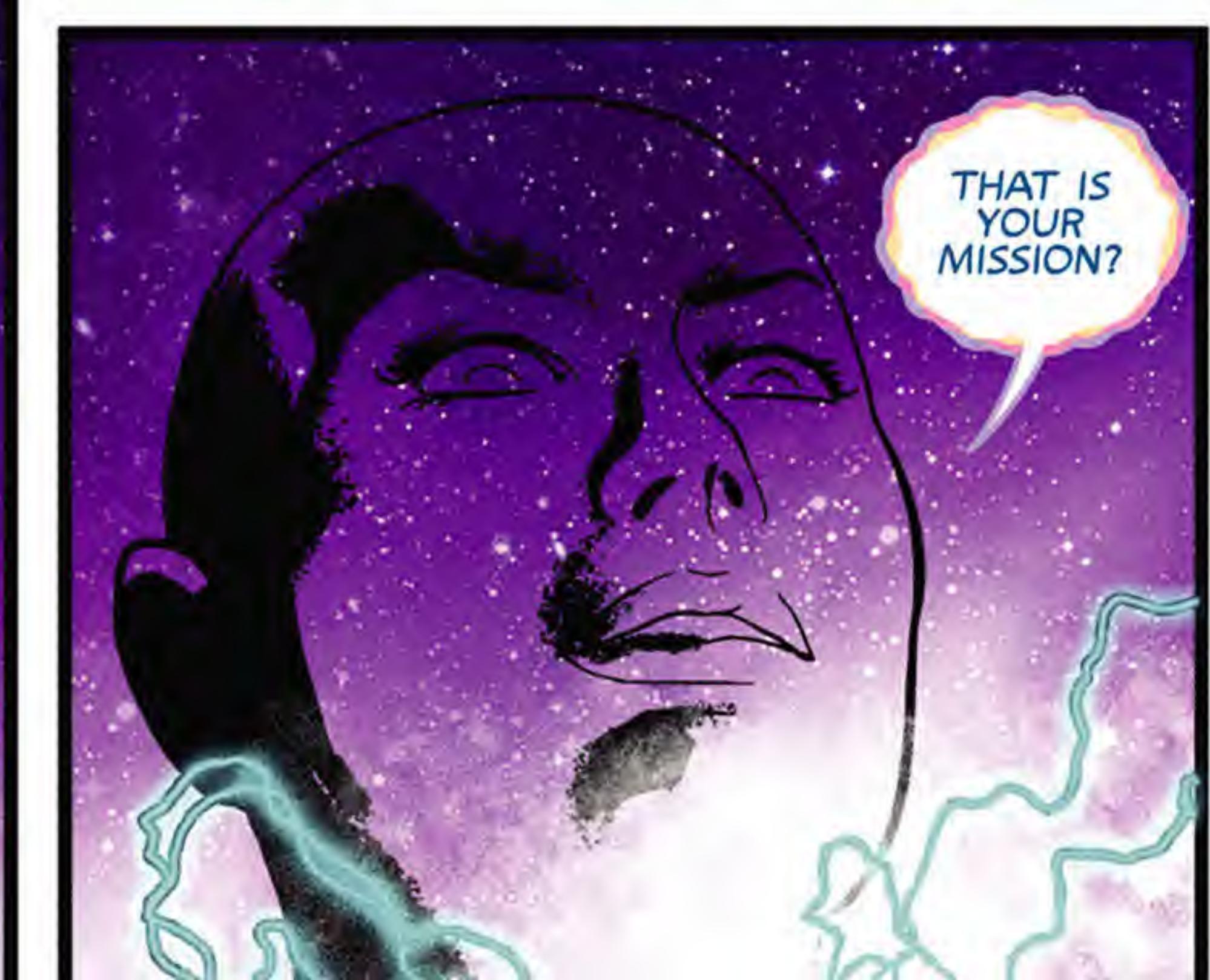
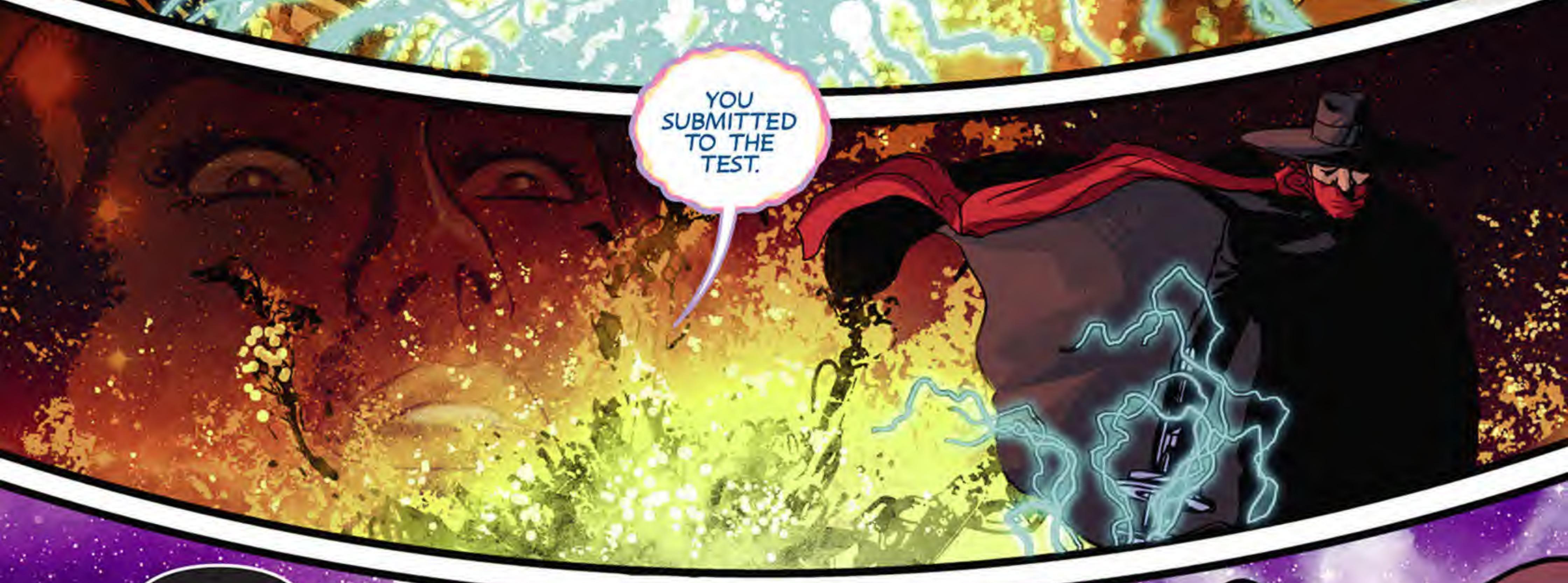


CRACK



CRASSSH







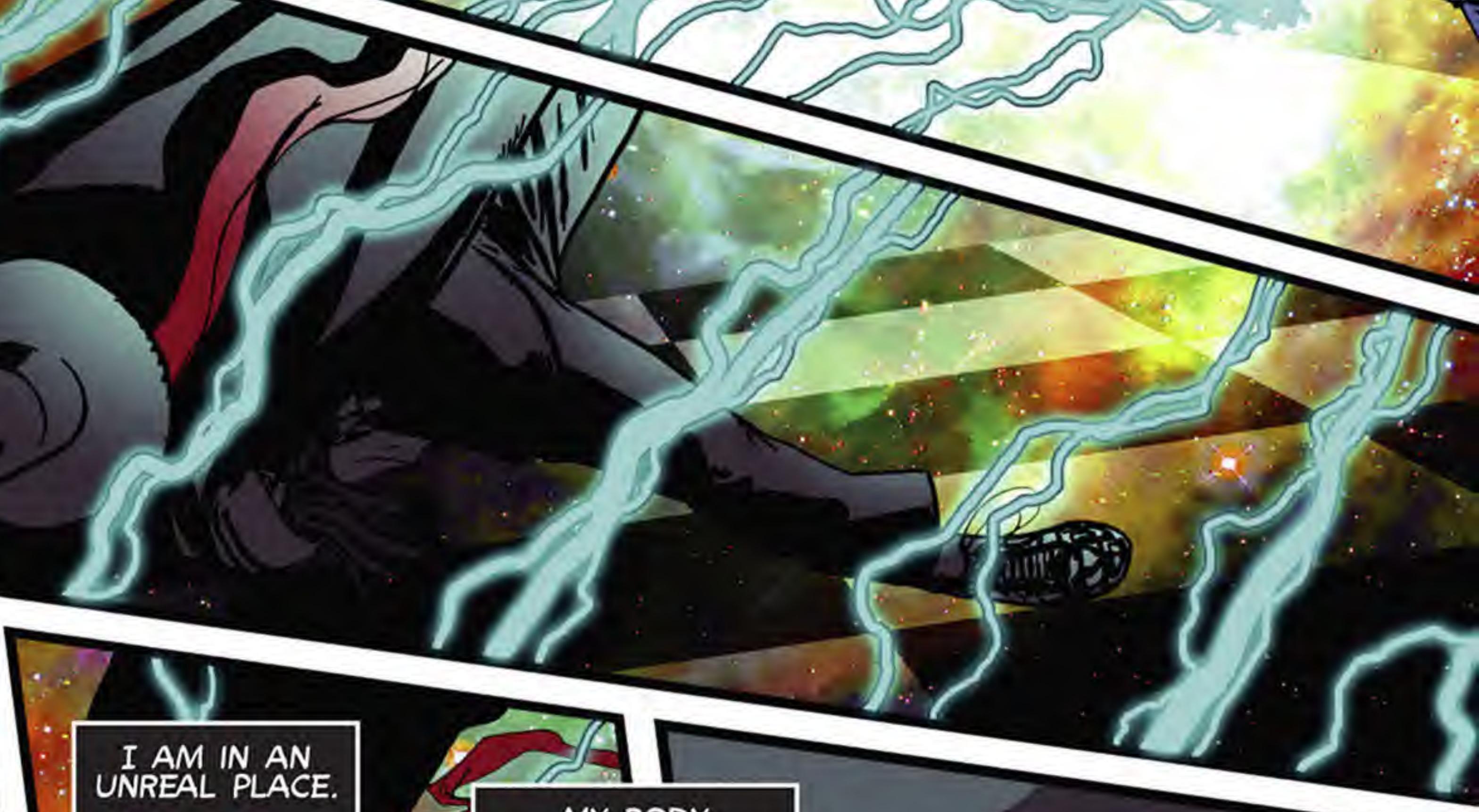


HOW DO I FAIL?

I SENSE THE
EVIL HERE.
I DESTROY IT,
YET...



HOW DO I FAIL?



I AM IN AN
UNREAL PLACE.

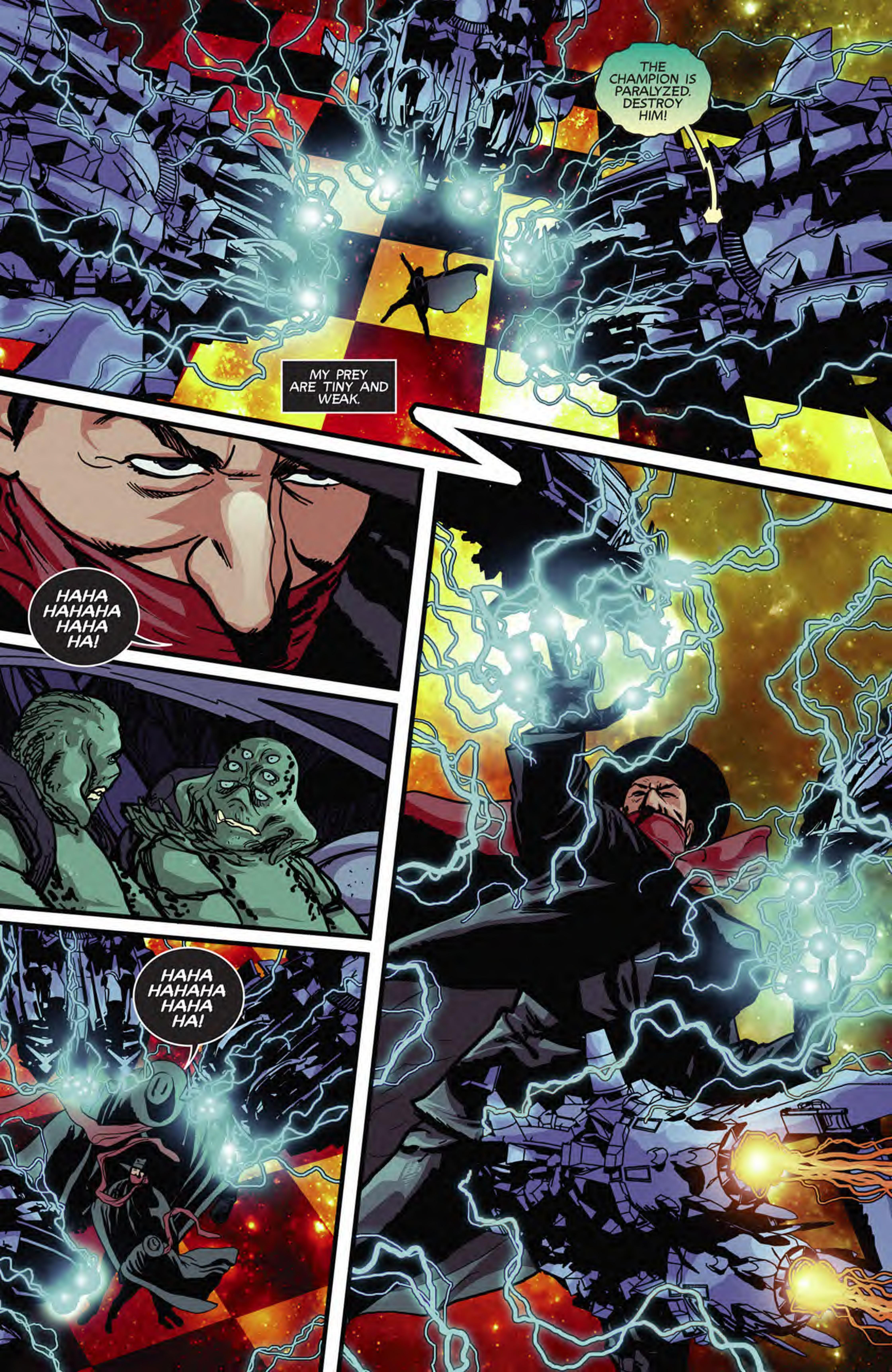
MY BODY
SLUMBERS IN THE
SANCTUM.

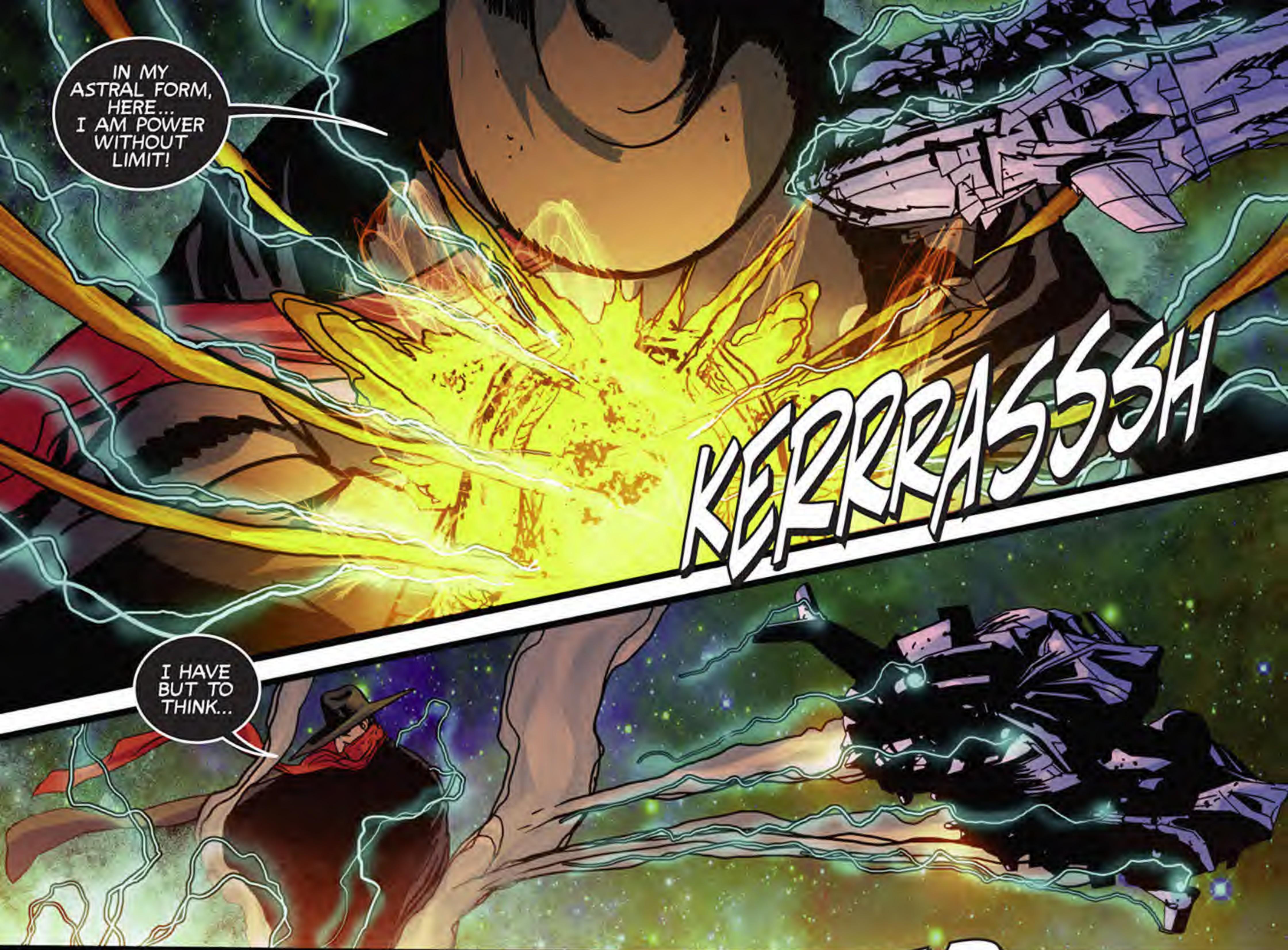
I AM BEYOND MY BODY.
BEYOND REALITY.

ABOVE
REALITY!



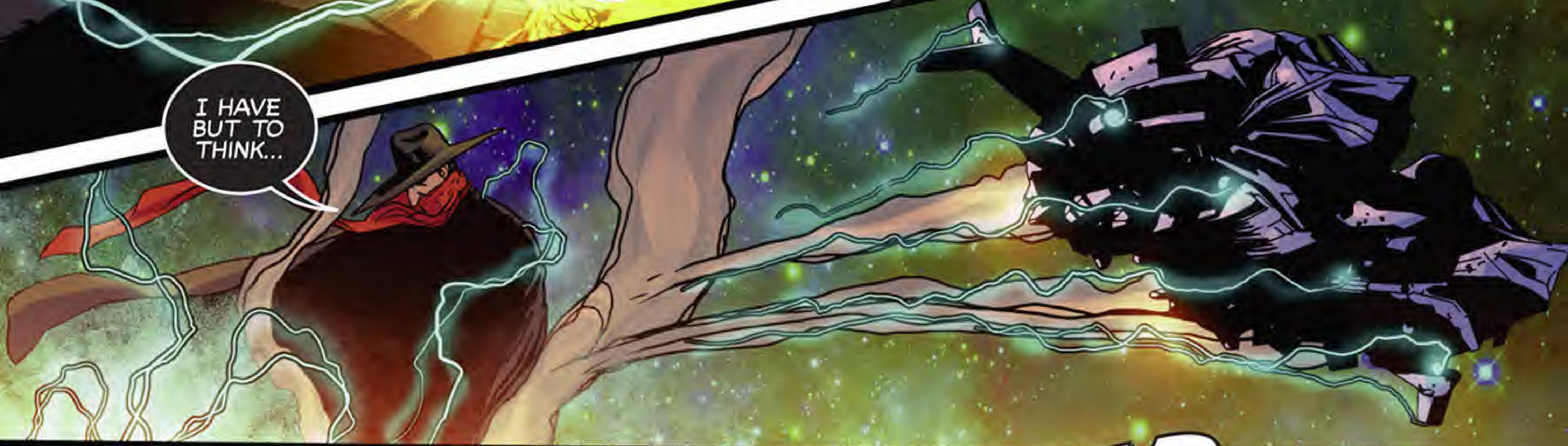
WHERE AM I?





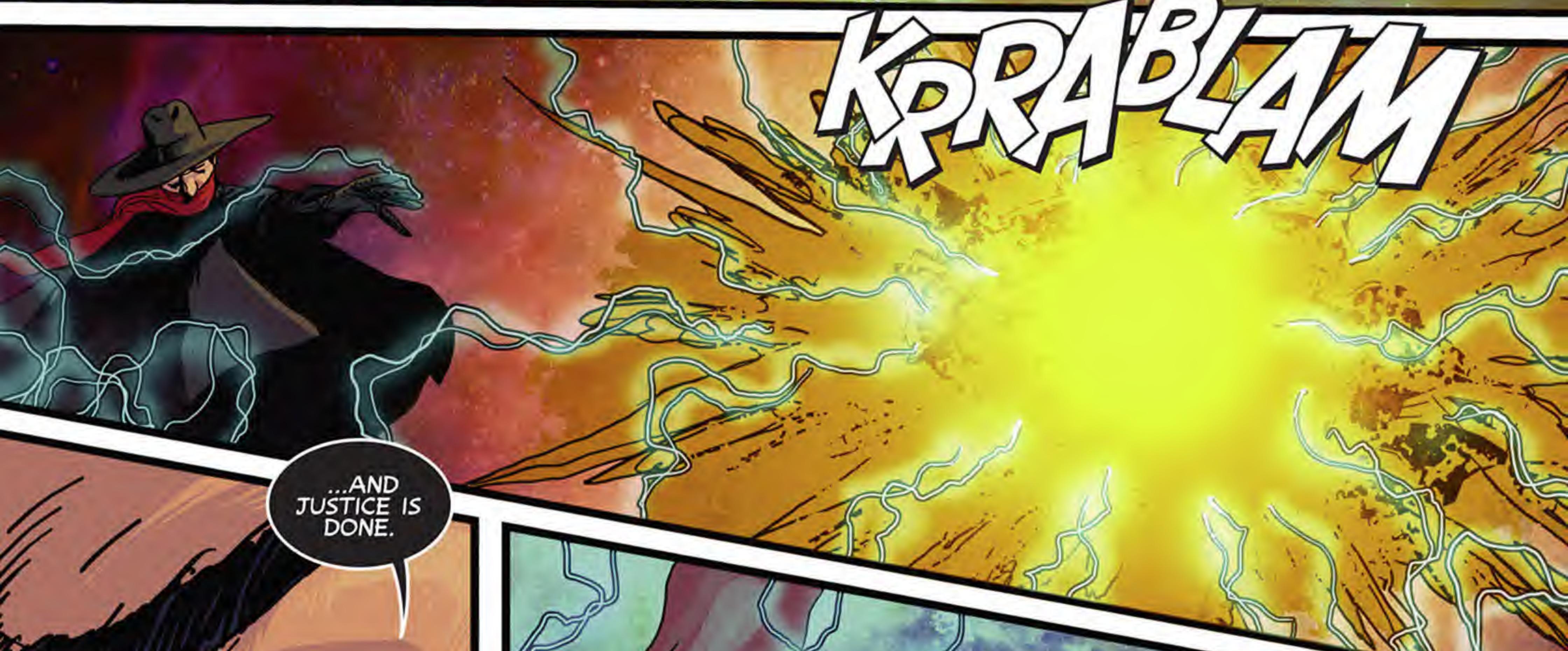
IN MY
ASTRAL FORM,
HERE...
I AM POWER
WITHOUT
LIMIT!

KERRASSSH



I HAVE
BUT TO
THINK...

KRRAPLAM



...AND
JUSTICE IS
DONE.



I HAVE
BEEN ASKING
THE WRONG
QUESTIONS
OF YOU,
EDEN.

WHEN
AM I?

442 SOLAR
YEARS SEPARATE
THIS MOMENT
AND THE MOMENT
IN WHICH WE
FOUND YOU.

THESE
INVADERS...

THEY BESET
THE EARTH. WE
ARE E.D.E.N.

EARTH DEFENSE
ENFORCEMENT
NETWORK.

OUR
INTELLIGENCE
ANIMATES AND
CONTROLS ALL
EARTH FORCES.

THE INVADERS
COME. THEY COME
IN NUMBERS.

EARTH HAS HAD
MANY CENTURIES
OF PEACE. EDEN HAS
EVOLVED. EDEN
HAS FORGOTTEN
SAVAGERY.

EDEN
SIMULATIONS ENDED
IN EDEN-FAILURE.
GENOCIDE.

EDEN SOUGHT
HELP. THROUGH ALL
TIME AND SPACE.

EDEN SOUGHT
A WARRIOR-ENTITY. A
GUIDING INTELLIGENCE
TO MAKE WAR.

EDEN SOUGHT A
WEAPON OF
JUSTICE.





AND YOU FOUND...
ME, IN MY
ASTRAL FORM.

EDEN
FOUND A
WARRIOR-
ENTITY.

EDEN
FOUND A
WEAPON OF
JUSTICE.



THE
WEAPON
OF JUSTICE
HAS BEEN
TESTED.

THE WEAPON
OF JUSTICE
DEFEATED THE
SIMULACRA.

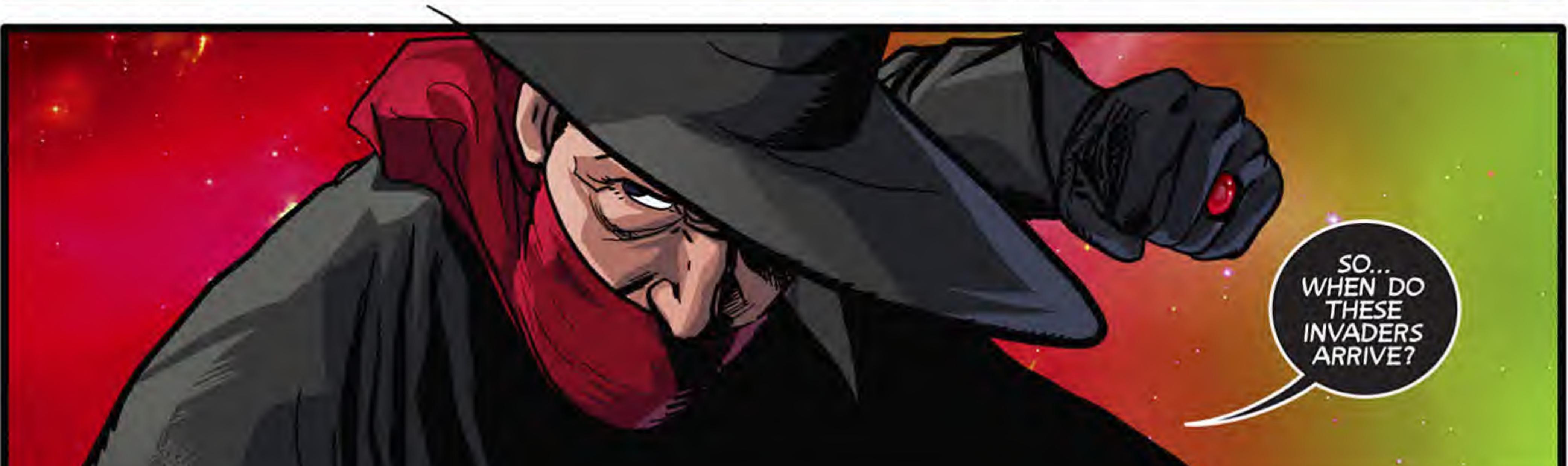


MOST
CRUCIALLY, THE
WEAPON OF
JUSTICE SENSED
THE TEST AND
SURMOUNTED
IT.

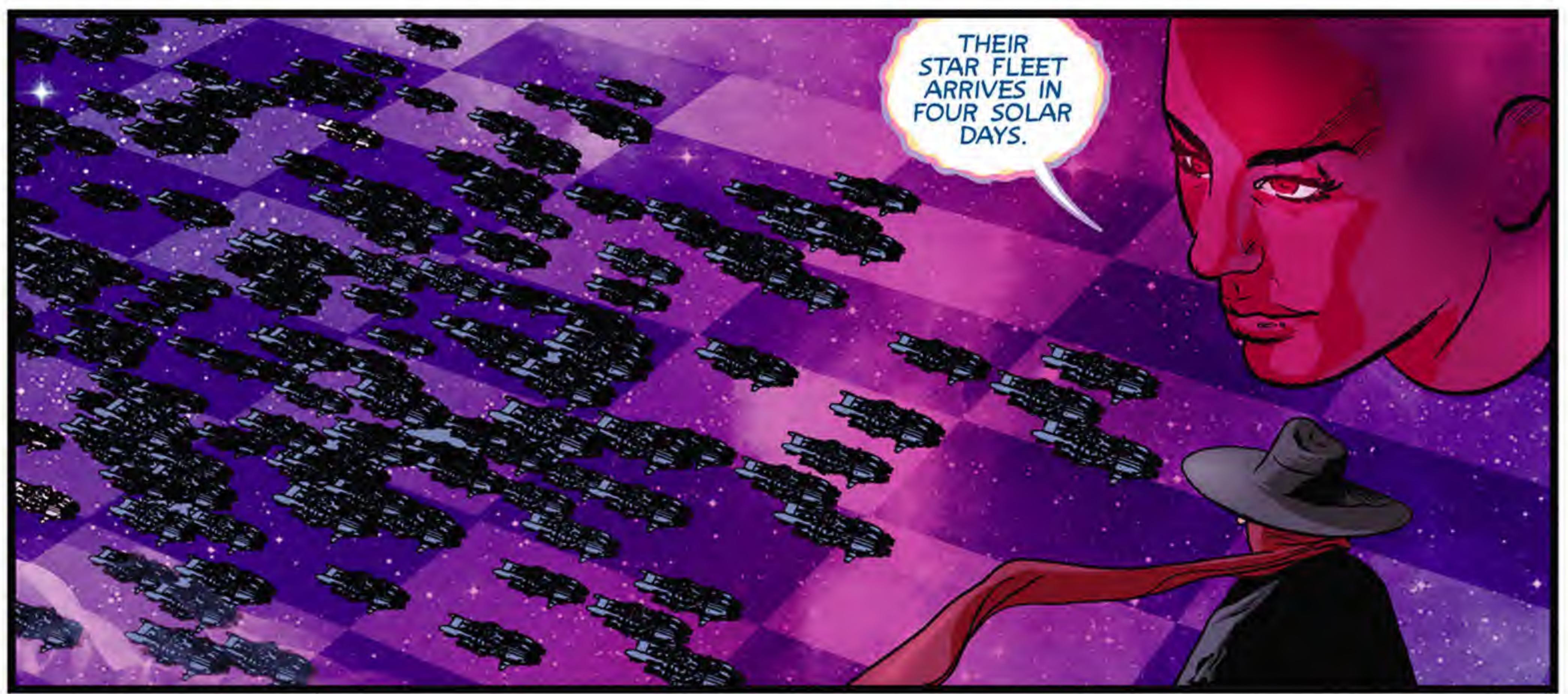


IN MY
OWN TIME...
I AM
NEEDED...

IN THIS
TIME, EDEN WILL
FAIL. THERE WILL
BE GENOCIDE.
EARTH DEATH.



SO...
WHEN DO
THESE
INVADERS
ARRIVE?





THE END

DYNAMITE®

IN THE NEWS - MARCH 2015

GAIL SIMONE TALKS ABOUT UNLEASHING THE SWORDS OF SORROW AT DYNAMITE

Here's the thing. I love a lot of publishers, but none are as sneaky as Nick Barrucci.

When he first called me after my DC exclusive contract was up, he offered me a choice of virtually any character in their stable, and being a lover of pulp and many different genres, that was a tremendous list. I chose Red Sonja and have never regretted it, but going over that list of great names, Miss Fury, Dejah Thoris, Vampirella... it really stuck in my mind.

A couple years later, Nick calls me to ask some advice about a WOMEN OF DYNAMITE crossover event. It just sounds so cool, and ideas start spilling out of me, I keep saying, "Oh, you could do THIS, and you've got to include HER, and what if there were tie-in side stories and you had all female writers? OH, and you HAVE to have Red Sonja face Dejah Thoris, that's NEVER BEEN DONE!"

And finally, I ask, "Who are you getting to write this thing, Nick?"

And he responds, "Well, we were hoping YOU would."

Like I said, that guy is sneaky.

Anyway, it totally WORKED.

* * * *

It's like this. I love pulp adventure, always have. But as male-dominated as comics have often been, the pulp adventure world seems to be even more so. Most of the big name stars and creators are dudes, and that's fine, it's great. But it hit me...what if that wasn't the case? What if adventure pulps had also been written with female readers in mind, and awesome female characters in the spotlight?

That's the scenario we are imagining, and it's just been a blast. The key players are Red Sonja, Vampirella, and Dejah Thoris, but it's such an epic-spanning, world-hopping event that we also have Kato, Jungle Girl, Lady Rawhide, Jennifer Blood, and so many more.

It's the crossover I dreamed of when I was a kid, and now we get to make it happen.

* * * *

Imagine a world of pulp adventure heroines, where all their homelands, across time and dimension, are being destroyed. Imagine these powerful women, who don't even necessarily LIKE each other, have to somehow manage to not kill each other long enough to go on an epic walking journey into the heart of darkness itself.

But they have weapons to aid them... each warrior is given a mysterious ebony blade...THE SWORDS OF SORROW.

* * * *

I'm excited to work on this book, it's just full of fun stuff, characters in places they were never meant to be, Jennifer Blood hunting Vampirella, and the first EVER official crossover with a character from Robert E. Howard's Hyboria with a character from Edgar Rice Burroughs' Mars epics... I just wanted to giggle, writing this stuff.

* * * *

One of the best things about it is the gorgeous art from Sergio Davila. Again, Nick gave me a lot of choices, but when I saw Sergio's work in LEGENDERRY, that was it, I was sold. He can handle huge casts, and beautiful, powerful women, and he just draws worlds with his pencil. We're incredibly fortunate.

* * * *

My other favorite thing is that we have several tie in issues... these aren't necessary to enjoy the main book, but we got the best writers around, gave them a fun combination of characters and just let them go wild.

It's creators like G. Willow Wilson, Marguerite Bennett, Nancy Collins and more, with book titles like VAMPIRELLA VS JENNIFER BLOOD, KATO VS. MASQUERADE, and RED SONJA VS. JUNGLE GIRL. More about these tag teams soon, but it's just ridiculous amounts of fun to set these characters against each other, and I'm very proud of the astounding team of writers, who I hand-picked from among the very best of new female adventure writers. There's never been a crossover event in comics like this, ever.

* * * *

I love crossovers, I love the whole, "Who would win, Hulk or Superman?" aspect of them. I hate when they are dreary and lethargic. I asked everyone to pump this up to jetpack levels. It's full of surprises, and no fan of any of these characters is going to want to miss the sex, violence, snark and fun.

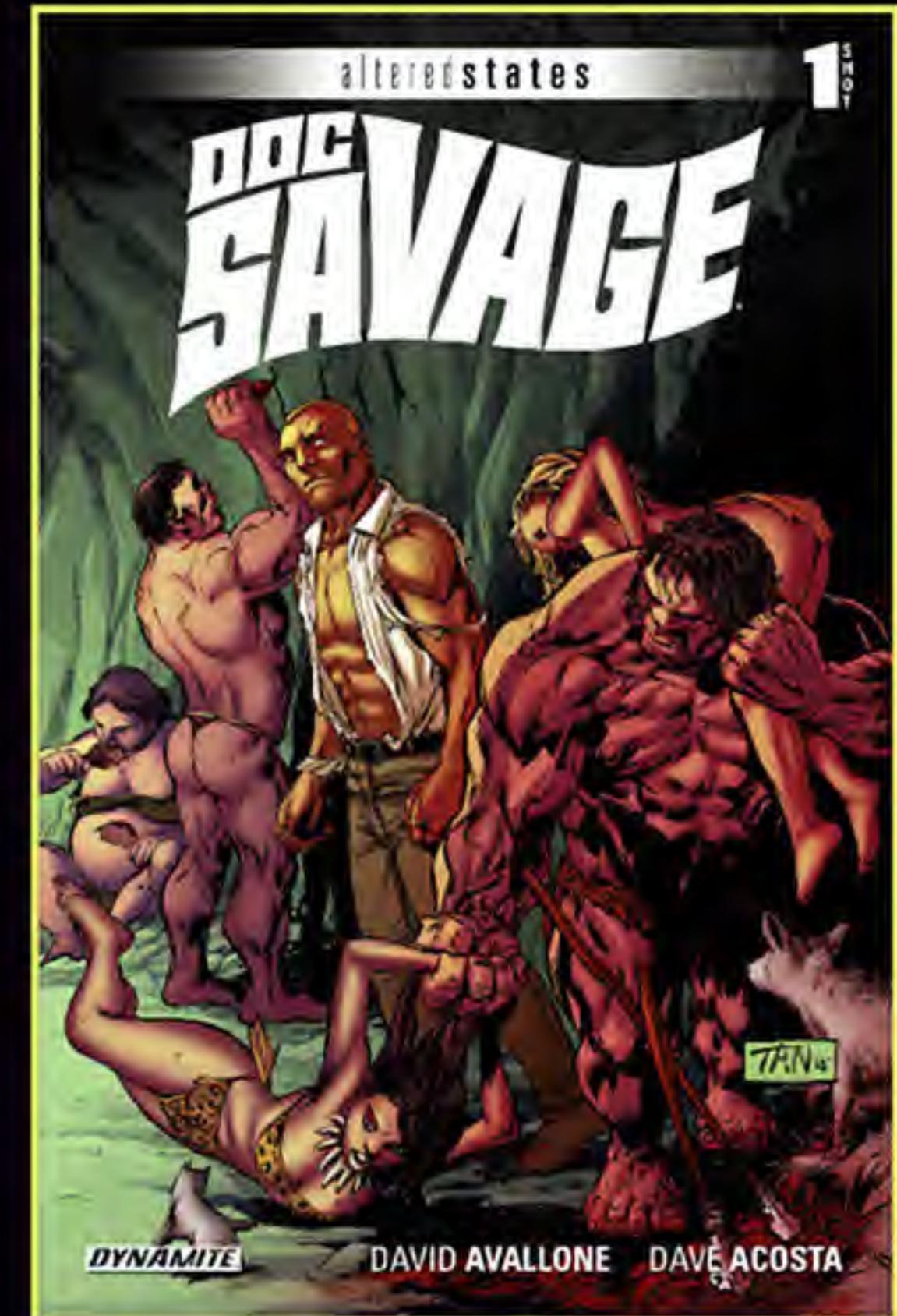
I am really grateful to Dynamite for making this happen. Dealing with all of these properties and licenses, it would daunt most publishers into giving up.

But like I said, Nick Barrucci is sneaky!

* * * *

For art and more information, please visit: <http://www.dynamite.com/>

IN STORES:



ALTERED STATES: DOC SAVAGE

Welcome to Altered States... Dynamite Entertainment's parallel reality in the vein of DC's Elseworlds and Marvel's What If! Doc's research into the criminal inside all men backfires... and his own experiment reduces him to a mindless primitive. When the most powerful man in the world is turned into a rampaging beast, can you stop him without killing him?

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